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MIND OVER MATTER

A Jon Jarl Adventure

by

Eando Binder

TITANIA, one of Uranus' four moons, was 1000 miles in diameter, and served as a mining outpost for Earth As Lieutenant Jon Jari of the Space Patrol slanted down in his rocket ship, he wondered what was wrong. He had picked up an SOS from the mintry, hours before, that they were in trouble.

In a valley, he saw the huge open pit from which they dug valuable ores. Nearby was the village. But there was no mining going on. The machines lay idle. And not a soul could be seen in the village.

Puzzled, and deciding to use caution. Jon landed his ship outside the village, screened by trees, and stepped out. The gravity was light, and the air thin and cold, but Jon was used to such extra-terrestrial conditions.

He strode through the trees toward the village, hut whipled, pulling his ray gun, at the sudden sound of a footstep behind him. Then Jon relaxed, smiling. A man was approaching him. One of the miners, no doubt, since he wore rough clothes and had a small pickaxe in his belt.

"Hello," said Jon. "What are you doing out in the woods? Why are you away from the village?"

As the miner approached, John noticed a strange, cold light in his eyes. "You are of the Space Patrol?" the miner asked in a stiff voice. "You have come to help the village people?"

"Why, yes," nodded Jon, puzzled at the way he put it.

"Then we will seize you !" barked the man suddenly. Several more miners now slipped from behind trees and converged on Jon. They all had a strange hostile look in their eyes.

"Hey, what is this?" demanded Jon. "Tm here to help you. I'm a fellow Earthman, a human being."

"Our enemy!" hissed the leader, and they all jumped for Jon-only Jon wasn't there. He had leaped hack twenty feet, in the light gravity. One man tried to hurl his pickase at Jon, but Jon shot it out of his hand.

"You men are acting mighty strange," Jon



snapped, holding them off. "I'm going to the village and find out the answer to all this." He turned and made a dash for the village. The miners let him go, making no effort to pursue him.

A NOTHER surprise lay in store for Jon in the village. As he passed the first aluminum hut, a ray spanged out, nearly clipping him. Men jumping him in the woods, and now men shooting at him in the village! What was going on here?

But then the door of the hut opened and a miner rushed out, with a glad cry. "A space policeman! We mistook you for one of the Mindies! Come in, come in! We sure are glad to see you!"

Well, that was better! Jon went in. The door was carefully locked behind him. In the hut were ten miners, all looking haggard, worn and unshaven, as though they had been on guard for days. The leader introduced himself as Dan Gallard.

"Those men in the woods," asked Jon, "why did they attack me? Why would they attack a fellow Earthman?"

"Fellow Earthman nothing!" retorted Gallard. "They aren't fellow Earthmen at all."

"What?" Jon said. "But they are menhuman heings! I saw them with my own eyes."

"Yes, human in form. But mentally, they are alien beings?"

"You mean their minds are not human?"

Guilten nedden. "Let me erplain. The native beings of Titnin are pure minds. They have no physical holdes. We call them frequency of the set of the set of the set of the human herin, and take it overl We didn't mapped this surveys, till a week ago. Beamped this surveys, till a week ago. Beto go crazy, run amok and dash off into the words. We though he just vern hats. But what really happened was that a Mindle had were."

Jon was amazed, but then he nodded.

There were many queer things among the various worlds. "How many of your men have been taken over by the Mindies?"

"Too many," Gallard muttered. "A week ago, the Mindles came in a huge swarm and took over as many as they could. They got fifty men! That leaves only us ten in the village-LOOK OUT!"

THE last was a warning screech from Gallard. Suddenly he began wildly beating his arms about his head as if fighting an invisible nightmare. "A Mindie!" he yelled. "In this room! It must have slipped in when we let the Space Policeman in."

"But I don't see anything—" began Jon. He stopped, for dimly now, he could see the vague misty hall that hung in the room. The misty ball of pure mind darted at Jon and wrapped listel around his bead.

Suddenly, a strong telepathic voice rang through his head. "Get out?" the voice said. "Get out, you Earthly mind! I am going to take your place, and rule this Earthman's body! Get out-get out!"

Jon felt his mind slipping. No, not slipping—it felt as if his mind were being shored out of his brain! Once that happened, he knew he would no longer be Lieutenant Jon Jari, but a Mindie, an enemy of Earthnen!

Some instinct told Jon there was only one way to fight the Mindie. He couldn't hit it, or shoot it. He could only fight it with mental force! "No!" Jon yelled. "You can't set in! You can't set in! You can't ="

Suddenly be was free. The Mindle, defeated, let out a sort of mental curse, and Jon could see its cloudy round shape dart for the door. Gallard opend it, and the Mindle was gene. "Only too glad to get rid "Good Ghig you haves a life the unmine to Toose with weak minds give in to the Mindles and get taken over."

Jon wiped the sweat off his brow and then said thoughtfully. "Those Mindles can't he / pure mental force. They must have some material form. They can only get in and out through open doors ... Hmm."

Gallard peered out of the window, anxiously. "They'll probably statics soon. I mean the Mindies in Earthman bodies. They outsumber us now. One good statick and they could kill us off and take over the village for themselves. We've hene expecting it for a long time. That's why we sent out that SOS. Can you think of any way to save us?"

Jon thought silently for a time. Then his expression brightened. "Do you have any batteries?" he asked.

"Why yes," Gallard said puzzled. "We have batteries in every but for heating pur-

poses. Electrical beat." He pointed to a bank of large batteries at the back. Without explanation, Jon began looking and unhooking wires.

N OT long after, the attack come. A wildly yelling horde of men streamed from the forest, swinging pickaxes, and tried to batter down the door to get at the barricaded miners. Humans fighting humans! But balf of them were not human. They were the alien Mindies.

As the door came down and the enemy charged in, Jon was ready. "Stand back" he yelled to his companions. Then he extended a bare wire and pulled a which. A long streak of electrical energy sprang forth and bit one of the attackers. A surprised look came over the face, replacing the alien look, and then the body fell to the floor.

Jon shot his electrical spark into the other Mindies, and down they all went. The attackers kept coming from outside, but Jon's spark got them all.

"You licked them!" Gallard said, awed. "How did you do it?"

"Simple enough." Jon explained. "I figured the Mindles must be a ball of something-mayhe just loose atoms or electrons. And an electrical obarge can disperse loose atoms. In short, I electrocuted the Mindles!"

Gallard waved sadly at the hodies. "Too bad they had to die."

But at that moment one of the men sat up, hewildered. "Uh . . . hello," he said. "What happened? Last I remember, I was at the mine working, and then all went blank!"

"They're alive !" cried Gallard, "And their minds are back !"

"Their minds never really left," Jon corrected. "The Mindies only gained control of the human brain, submerging the human mind. Then, when the Mindie got electrocuted, the miner's human mind was free again. The electrical aboot, was strong fail enough to harm the rugged buman bodies they were in."

"Then all the man will recover, and be normal buman beings again," Gallard said thanidully. "And now we know how to fight off the Mindies-with electricity! Lieutenant Jarl, all I can say is---"

"Skip it," Jon grinned. "I'm hungry. How about some chow?"

THE END.

Watch for another Futuristic adventure with Jon Jarl in next month's Captain Marvel Adventures.

























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